

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;
providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and the sleeve formed of a laminated material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of the layer of polymeric film laminated to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a cinching tab having a bonding material disposed thereon, the cinching tab connected to the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position substantially adjacent the stem portion of the floral grouping;
placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve;
and

crimping portions of the sleeve about the stem portion of the floral grouping such that at least a portion of the sleeve overlaps another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material disposed on the cinching tab engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve together so that the sleeve is bound in a position about the floral grouping, thereby forming a decorative cover for the floral grouping.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, the layer of cloth has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil, and the layer of polymeric film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, the layer of polymeric film ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;
providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open
state and the sleeve formed of a laminated material comprising a
layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of the
layer of polymeric film laminated to the layer of cloth, the layer of
cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric,
nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric,
pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve
having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface
surrounding an inner retaining space, and an outer peripheral
surface;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve;

and

positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve disposed
about the stem portion of the floral grouping so as to form a
crimped portion of the sleeve, thereby binding the sleeve in a
position about the floral grouping so as to form a wrapper for the
floral grouping.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein, in the step of providing a
sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric

film, the layer of cloth has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil, and the layer of polymeric film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, the layer of polymeric film ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein, in the step of positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve, the banding element is selected from the group consisting of string, ribbon, an elastic band, a non-elastic band, an elastic or non-elastic piece of material, a round piece of material, a flat piece of material, a piece of paper strip, a piece of plastic strip, a piece of wire, a tie wrap, a twist tie and combinations thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A decorative sleeve positionable about at least a portion of a floral grouping, the decorative sleeve comprising:

a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and
the sleeve and the sleeve constructed of a laminated material

comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of the layer of polymeric film laminated to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof; and ~~the layer of polymeric film being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.~~

9. (Original) The decorative sleeve of claim 8 wherein the layer of cloth has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mil, and the layer of polymeric film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mil.

Claims 10 - 16 (Cancel)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion; providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and the sleeve formed of a laminated material comprising a

layer of cloth, a first layer of polymeric film and a second layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of each of the first and second layers of polymeric film laminated to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a cinching tab having a bonding material disposed thereon, the cinching tab connected to the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position substantially adjacent the stem portion of the floral grouping; placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and crimping portions of the sleeve about the stem portion of the floral grouping such that at least a portion of the sleeve overlaps another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material disposed on the cinching tab engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve together so that the sleeve is bound in a position about the floral grouping, thereby forming a decorative cover for the floral grouping.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion; providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and the sleeve formed of a laminated material comprising a layer of cloth, a first layer of polymeric film and a second layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of each of the first and second layers of polymeric film laminated to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, and an outer peripheral surface;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve;

and

positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve disposed about the stem portion of the floral grouping so as to form a crimped portion of the sleeve, thereby binding the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping so as to form a wrapper for the floral grouping.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein, in the step of positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve, the banding element is selected from the group consisting of string, ribbon, an elastic band, a non-elastic band, an elastic or non-elastic piece of material, a round piece of material, a flat piece of material, a piece of paper strip, a piece of plastic strip, a piece of wire, a tie wrap, a twist tie and combinations thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) A decorative sleeve positionable about at least a portion of a floral grouping, the decorative sleeve comprising:

a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and
the sleeve and the sleeve constructed of a laminated material comprising a layer of cloth, a first layer of polymeric film and a second layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of each of the first and second layers of polymeric film laminated to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, and the ~~layer of polymeric film being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.~~

Claims 21 and 22 (Cancel)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) The decorative sleeve of claim 8 wherein the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

Claims 26 and 27 (Cancel)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) The decorative sleeve of claim 20 wherein the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

Claims 31 and 32 (Cancel)

33. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open

state and the sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of the layer of polymeric film connected to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a cinching tab having a bonding material disposed thereon, the cinching tab connected to the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position substantially adjacent the stem portion of the floral grouping;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve;

and

crimping portions of the sleeve about the stem portion of the floral grouping such that at least a portion of the sleeve overlaps another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material disposed on the cinching tab engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve together so that the sleeve is bound in a position about the floral grouping, thereby forming a decorative cover for the floral grouping.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, the layer of cloth has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil, and the layer of polymeric film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, the layer of polymeric film ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is

constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;

providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and the sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of the layer of polymeric film connected to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, and an outer peripheral surface;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve;

and

positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve disposed about the stem portion of the floral grouping so as to form a crimped portion of the sleeve, thereby binding the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping so as to form a wrapper for the floral grouping.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, the layer of cloth has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil, and the layer of polymeric film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 30 mil.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein, in the step of providing a sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, the layer of polymeric film ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein, in the step of positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve, the banding element is selected from the group consisting of string, ribbon, an elastic band,

a non-elastic band, an elastic or non-elastic piece of material, a round piece of material, a flat piece of material, a piece of paper strip, a piece of plastic strip, a piece of wire, a tie wrap, a twist tie and combinations thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

42. (Currently Amended) A decorative sleeve positionable about at least a portion of a floral grouping, the decorative sleeve comprising:

a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and
the sleeve and the sleeve constructed of a material comprising a
layer of cloth and a layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of the
layer of polymeric film connected to the layer of cloth, the layer of
cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric,
nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric,
pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, and the layer
~~of polymeric film being selected from the group consisting of~~

~~polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.~~

43. (Previously Presented) The decorative sleeve of claim 42 wherein the layer of cloth has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mil, and the layer of polymeric film has a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mil.

44. (Previously Presented) The decorative sleeve of claim 42 wherein the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

Claims 45 - 53 (Cancel)

54. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;
providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and the sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of

cloth, a first layer of polymeric film and a second layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of each of the first and second layers of polymeric film connected to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, an outer peripheral surface, and a cinching tab having a bonding material disposed thereon, the cinching tab connected to the outer peripheral surface of the sleeve for holding overlapping portions of the sleeve in a crimped position substantially adjacent the stem portion of the floral grouping; placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve; and crimping portions of the sleeve about the stem portion of the floral grouping such that at least a portion of the sleeve overlaps another portion of the sleeve, the bonding material disposed on the cinching tab engaging the overlapping portions of the sleeve together so that the sleeve is bound in a position about the floral grouping, thereby forming a decorative cover for the floral grouping.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

56. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a floral grouping, comprising the steps of:

providing a floral grouping having a bloom portion and a stem portion;
providing a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and the sleeve formed of a material comprising a layer of cloth, a first layer of polymeric film and a second layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of each of the first and second layers of polymeric film connected to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, the sleeve having an upper end, a lower end, an inner peripheral surface surrounding an inner retaining space, and an outer peripheral surface;

placing the floral grouping into the inner retaining space of the sleeve;

and

positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve disposed about the stem portion of the floral grouping so as to form a crimped portion of the sleeve, thereby binding the sleeve in a position about the floral grouping so as to form a wrapper for the floral grouping.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein, in the step of positioning a banding element about a portion of the sleeve, the banding element is selected from the group consisting of string, ribbon, an elastic band, a non-elastic band, an elastic or non-elastic piece of material, a round piece of material, a flat piece of material, a piece of paper strip, a piece of plastic strip, a piece of wire, a tie wrap, a twist tie and combinations thereof.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein in the step of providing the sleeve, the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

59. (Currently Amended) A decorative sleeve positionable about at least a portion of a floral grouping, the decorative sleeve comprising:

a sleeve initially having flattened state and openable to an open state and
the sleeve and the sleeve constructed of a material comprising a
layer of cloth, a first layer of polymeric film and a second layer of polymeric film, at least a portion of each of the first and second layers of polymeric film connected to the layer of cloth, the layer of cloth being selected from the group consisting of woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, welded fabric, spun-bonded fabric, knitted fabric, pressed fabric and combinations and blends thereof, ~~and the layer of polymeric film being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, cellophane, expanded core polymeric film, and combinations thereof.~~

60. (Previously Presented) The decorative sleeve of claim 59 wherein the laminated material from which the sleeve is constructed has a decorative pattern, design or color thereon, wherein the decorative pattern, design or color is provided by printing, embossing, matting, texturing, flocking, application of foamable lacquers or foamable inks, or by variations and combinations thereof.

Claims 61 - 64 (Cancel)